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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

## REPORT

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

**SUBJECT**

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DATA FROM A GREEK INTERROGATION REPORT:  
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INFORMATION ON BULGARIA

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## 1. Political

a. Internal Political Situation

(1) Administration and Organization. Deber village has about 1,000 families. It belongs to Borisovgrad in Plovdiv Okrag. The president of the Commune Council of Deber is Temo Khristozov Zlatavtsev, 47, from Deber. The secretary of the local committee, Communist Party of Bulgaria, is Jordan Kono-seliev, 35, from Deber.

(2). Education. There are two primary schools and one preparatory gymnasium in Deber. Attendance up to the fourth year of primary school is compulsory. About 800 students attend the higher schools.

(3) Youth. Membership in the Dimitrov National Youth Association is compulsory for students of all schools. For nonstudents it is not compulsory, although they may be forced to join through indirect means. All members of the Dimitrov National Youth Association receive special rations of clothing and food.

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STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	DISTRIBUTION					
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(4) Social Welfare. A three-story hospital is being constructed southwest of Borisovgrad. There is another hospital at Chirpan. In Plovdiv there are two hospitals: the state hospital which is built on a small hill and extends over an area of about one square kilometer, and a military hospital for which no details are available.

West of Khaskovo near the central prisons there is a two-story military hospital which is being extended with new dwellings. All government workers or civil servants are insured and receive medical and pharmaceutical benefits.

There are children's centers which accept children from the ages of 3 to 7. These centers offer free food, clothing, shoes, shelter, and medical care. Parents may call for their children each evening if they so wish. Generally, the children live very well.

Throughout Bulgaria there is a shortage of medicines. During the summer months there is always an epidemic of intestinal sickness.

(5) People's Morale. The Bulgarian people's morale is not good. The majority of the population desires a change of the status quo. About 30 percent favor the status quo. The state propaganda has no influence on the Bulgarian people. Listening to foreign radio broadcasts is permitted; however, those doing so are looked upon with suspicion.

#### b. Opposition to the Regime

(1) Internal Opposition. There is no evidence of opposition to the regime on the part of the people.

(2) Opposition Abroad. The Bulgarian refugees who fled to Turkey have formed a Bulgarian emigrants' committee under the leadership of Strati Skerlev, 46, former Agrarian Party deputy, from Volgadin village. Skerlev had been in a concentration camp in Bulgaria but escaped in 1948. He now is in Istanbul.

#### c. Minorities

(1) Greek Minority. There are Greeks in Stenimachon, Plovdiv, and Ivaylovgrad. The exact number cannot be determined. They have the same rights as Bulgarians and they are occupied chiefly in the professions, trade, and tobacco cultivation. They are denied their own schools, however. Their national feeling is well developed.

(2) Turkish Minority and Pomaks. There are many Turks in Bulgaria, especially in the Rhodope and Dobruzha. They have their own schools and are occupied chiefly with agriculture. Today they are under pressure by the Bulgarians to emigrate to Turkey. The Pomaks who are found chiefly in the Rhodope are undergoing the same pressure.

(3) Jewish Minority. Since most of the Jews have emigrated to Israel, today there are very few left in Bulgaria.

(4) Armenian Minority. Up to 1947, there was a considerable number of Armenians in Bulgaria. During that year, however, most of them emigrated to the USSR and settled near the Caucasus.

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**3. Economic Situation****a. Formation of Communist System**

Once a year each commune council reports to the state the number of hectares cultivated and the type of product produced by the commune. On the basis of this information, the state fixes a quota for each commune of the number of acres to be cultivated for each product. The commune council, in turn, sets the quota for each producer. Each producer is obliged to meet his quota, but if he does not, whatever he has produced is taken and he receives a ration.

**b. Monetary Situation**

The currency is steady. The official market value of the US dollar is 350 leva, of the napoleon 1,890 leva. One US dollar is equivalent to 1,000 leva in the free market, a napoleon 15,000 leva, and a British pound 20,000 leva. Anyone arrested for exchanging foreign currency will be given 3 years' imprisonment and fined.

**c. Food Prices**

The daily per-capita distribution of food includes bread and the following:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Amount (grams)</u>	<u>Price (in leva)</u>
Soap	250	140 per kg
Sugar	300	120 per kg
Oil	250	165 per liter
Rice	250	130 per kg
Cheese	250	180 per kg

Most of the above food rations were insufficient for the people; therefore, they had to procure their food from the cooperatives on the free market at the following prices per kilogram: soap 700 leva, sugar 240 leva, oil 750 leva, and rice 650 leva.

Clothing and shoes are distributed to Communist Party members only. The official market price and the free market price of clothing and shoes are as follows:

	<u>Official Market Price (leva)</u>	<u>Free Market Price (leva)</u>
Shoes	2,400	9,000
Suit of clothes (av type)	6,800	17,500
Shirt (inferior quality)	900	4,500
Cabot cloth (1 meter)	140	800

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**d. Taxation**

Workers must pay 10 percent of their income as tax. Farmers are divided into six categories of taxpayers according to the yield of their land.

**e. Laborers**

Laborers work 8 hours a day. Women earn 280 to 400 leva per day. Men earn 400 to 450 per day. There is no shortage of specialists except in big factories, where Czechoslovak specialists are used. There is no unemployment in Bulgaria.

**f. Agrarian Policy**

No state assistance is given to farmers who are not members of farm workers' cooperatives. By heavy taxation, however, they are forced to join the farm workers' cooperatives against their wishes. It is estimated that up to now only 10 to 15 percent have joined farm workers' cooperatives.

**12. Greeks in Bulgaria****b. Abducted Greeks**

During 1948 in Berkovitsa, the source saw a group of Greeks, men, women, and children, waiting for the distribution of bread in the front yard of a school in the center of the city. The source heard that 5,000-6,000 Greeks were in Berkovitsa. During June 1950, the source was in Sofia where he met a Macedonian Slav named Paschal, from Kostur, Greece, who told him that there are many Greeks in Botevgrad also.

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